

# **Governor's Council on Agricultural Education**

## **Key Concerns & Questions**

### **1. Current Situation and Key Concerns**

- a. The number of students in Iowa studying agriculture at the high school level has increased from 7,000 in 1990 to 17,800 in 2015.
- b. FFA Membership has nearly doubled over the last 25 years to 14,000 students in 2015.
- c. There is an increased interest in adding Agricultural Education/FFA Programs in school districts that have never offered Agricultural Education/FFA in the curriculum.
- d. Technology is moving fast. STEM programs and the latest technologies/curriculum materials and approaches have inspired teachers to update the Agriculture Education curriculum and these changes have attracted many students to Agricultural Education/FFA programs.
- e. Agriculture knowledge and skills are needed in Iowa. Agriculture graduates from Iowa State University are in high demand evidenced by a 98% job placement rate with 70% of these graduates staying in Iowa.
- f. Because of their skill set many teachers have been recruited to the agriculture industry. Coupled with higher salaries offered by the industry, teachers are taking these positions and leaving the teaching profession.
- g. There is an increased demand for Agricultural Education/FFA instructors in Iowa (as well as nationally). The bottom line is, Iowa does not have enough teachers of Agricultural Education/FFA to fill the demand. Therefore increased demand for high school agricultural education/FFA programs may not be met.

### **2. Key Questions**

- a. Is there something the Governor's Council on Agricultural Education could/should be doing to help initiate new Agricultural Education/FFA programs and recruit future teachers?

- b. What can the Council do to help initiate new Agricultural Education/FFA programs in urban centers, middle schools and high schools all across Iowa?
- c. What can the Council do to persuade all school districts to include Agricultural Education/FFA programs in their offerings?
- d. What are some suggestions or strategies the Council could/should use to recruit high quality individuals to become teachers of Agricultural Education/FFA in Iowa?
- e. What can the Council do to help the public become more aware of and literate about agriculture and be supportive of Agricultural Education/FFA programs in Iowa?
- f. What could/should the Council do to encourage Agricultural Education/FFA instructors and agriculture communities to embrace and enhance technologies in support of Agricultural Education/FFA and make the future of agriculture a symbol of success in the food, fiber and natural resources challenges ahead?
- g. What could/should the Council do to help develop a system to enhance local, state and federal funding for agricultural education programs and other career and technical education programs in Iowa?